

*Screen Australia*



***SCIENCE***  
***2011***

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Cover Image: Immortal



**Screen Australia** presents a selection of new science documentaries in which it has invested.

Whether investigating the natural world, considering happiness or unlocking the key to immortality these documentaries will surprise, challenge, inform and inspire audiences.

Screen Australia is Australia's major screen funding agency. We provide investment for development and production of Australian film, television, documentary and interactive media, as well as resources for industry and business development.





## ***Australia: The Land that Time Forgot***

Presented by Richard Smith, this series takes us from the birth of the planet to modern times through the unique prism of the world's oldest continent, Australia. The series spans a mind-boggling 4.6 billion years in a fabulous amalgam of natural history, science and adventure. *The Land that Time Forgot* will reveal the full diversity of the Australian continent, its ancient lands, seas and living organisms. We will come face-to-face with an amazing array of creatures from the past, meet the people unravelling their secrets, and share experiences with locals who call these amazing landscapes home.

**3 x 60 mins / Earth Science**

**Director** Richard Smith

**Producer** Chris Hilton

**Production Company**

Essential Media & Entertainment  
[www.essential-media.com](http://www.essential-media.com)

**Broadcasters** ABC, UK TV

## **SALES**

National Geographic  
Television International  
[info@natgeotv-int.com](mailto:info@natgeotv-int.com)





## ***Cool School Antarctica***

Forty young people from 15 countries go on a trip of a lifetime to see what is really happening to the planet. Through adventure they learn about climate change and gain a first-hand perspective on compelling reasons to change to a more sustainable way of living. Filmed almost entirely in Antarctica, the film shows the transformative effect on a number of young city people as they travel to the end of the world. A refreshing look at climate change supported by a multimedia website.

**52 mins / Environmental Science**

**Directors** Liz Courtney, Gregory Miller

**Producers** Gregory Miller, Liz Courtney

**Production Company**  
Angels Television  
[www.coolschoolantarctica.com](http://www.coolschoolantarctica.com)

**Broadcasters** Nickelodeon, Australia Network, NHK, Discovery Canada

### **SALES**

Off the Fence  
[info@offthefence.com](mailto:info@offthefence.com)



## ***Dr Mary Goes Bush***

Outspoken and zealous, Dr Mary Fortune leaves Scotland to take up the challenge of working in one of the most remote medical posts on the planet. With her fresh eyes we discover the realities of Australian health delivery in a new light.

**3 x 52 mins / Medicine & Health**

**Director** Stuart Greig

**Producers** Brian Beaton,  
Celia Tait (executive producer)

**Production Company**  
Artemis International  
[www.artemisfilms.com](http://www.artemisfilms.com)

**Broadcasters** SBS, BBC Scotland

### **SALES**

SBS Content Sales  
[contentsales@sbs.com.au](mailto:contentsales@sbs.com.au)



## ***Eight Weeks to Happiness***

Eight ordinary people from a suburb identified by a university study as the unhappiest in the country embark on an extraordinary journey. Hoping to find greater fulfillment and meaning in their lives, they've signed up to an eight-week happiness program, working with a team of experts, and undergoing scientifically validated experiments. What they experience will change their lives, and what they discover could enrich us all.

Format sales from All 3 Media Europe, [international@all3media.com](mailto:international@all3media.com)

**3 x 55 mins / Behavioural & Social Science**

**Director** Kalita Corrigan

**Producers** Jennifer Cummins, Will Parry (series producer), Daryl Karp (executive producer)

**Production Company**

Heiress Films

[www.abc.net.au/makingaustraliahappy](http://www.abc.net.au/makingaustraliahappy)

**Broadcaster** ABC

**SALES**

ABC Commercial  
[abc.contentsales@abc.net.au](mailto:abc.contentsales@abc.net.au)



## ***The Grammar of Happiness***

Amongst perhaps the only truly happy people on earth, maverick linguist Daniel Everett sets out to discover if the language we speak defines the way we think. In fresh studies of the culture and language of the Amazonian Piraha tribe he seeks evidence for groundbreaking concepts that, if proven, will end the ostracism and insults Everett has endured from his own savage tribe of academics and expand our idea of what it means to be human.

**54 mins / Behavioural & Social Science**

**Director** Randall Wood

**Producers** Chris Hilton,  
Michael O'Neill

**Production Company**  
Essential Media & Entertainment  
[www.essential-media.com](http://www.essential-media.com)

**Broadcasters** ABC, Arte France,  
Smithsonian Channel

### **SALES**

Essential Media & Entertainment  
[info@essential-media.com](mailto:info@essential-media.com)





## ***The Hungry Tide***

The Pacific nation of Kiribati is forecast to be the first country in the world to disappear as a result of climate change. Sea-level rise and increasing salinity are threatening the lives of 110,000 people in this impoverished remote corner of the Pacific. Maria Tiimon is taking the message about Kiribati's plight to the world from Sydney to Copenhagen, to Berlin, and finally to the Climate Change conference in Cancun. Finding a balance between political campaigning and supporting her large needy family back on the islands presents a very real personal challenge.

**90 mins, 52 mins /  
Environmental Science**

**Director** Tom Zubrycki

**Producer** Tom Zubrycki

**Production Company**  
Jotz Productions

**Broadcaster** SBS

**SALES**

Tom Zubrycki  
tzub@ozemail.com.au



## ***Immortal***

Astonishingly, science has uncovered the key to unlimited life and a secret of endless youth. Deep in the DNA of a humble pond creature an Australian-born scientist co-discovered an 'immortalising' enzyme, a chemical catalyst that can keep cells young, forever. In 2009, this discovery was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine. But, this is no simple 'cure' for ageing. For the same enzyme that fuels endless youth, also fuels cancer. *Immortal* reveals the inner workings of this biological paradox and its remarkable impact on ageing, stress and cancer.

**52 mins / Biochemistry & Gerontology**

**Director** Sonya Pemberton

**Producer** Tony Wright

**Production Companies**

December Films, Pemberton Films  
[www.decemberfilms.com.au](http://www.decemberfilms.com.au)

**Broadcasters** SBS, CBC,  
Smithsonian Channel US

## **SALES**

National Geographic  
Television International  
[info@natgeotv-int.com](mailto:info@natgeotv-int.com)



## ***Kangaroo Mob***

An intimate look at the kangaroos taking over the suburbs of Canberra and the team of ecologists following their every move. Using the latest scientific technology we will uncover surprising new behaviour whilst delving into the controversial issues that arise when sharing your backyard with a large wild animal. *Kangaroo Mob* will be a highly entertaining look at what happens when habitat runs out and kangaroos and humans are forced to co-exist.

**52 mins / Science & Nature**

**Director** Steve Westh

**Producer** Sally Ingleton

**Production Company**

360 Degree Films

[www.360degreefilms.com.au](http://www.360degreefilms.com.au)

**Broadcasters** ABC, RTBF,  
YLE, SVT

## **SALES**

National Geographic  
Television International  
[info@natgeotv-int.com](mailto:info@natgeotv-int.com)





## ***Kuru - The Science and the Sorcery***

*Kuru* follows Australian scientist, Michael Alpers, deep into the jungles of Papua New Guinea; into a mysterious world of sorcery, cannibalism and tribal conflict. Stranger than fiction, the research into kuru reveals a chain of discoveries, which turned scientific understandings upside down and resulted in two Nobel prizes. It's a medical detective story that links strange animal diseases to terrifying fatal human diseases; and links all humans to a remote past of cannibal practices.

**52 mins / Behavioural & Social Science**

**Director** Rob Bygott

**Producers** Peter Du Cane, Francesca Hope

**Production Company**  
Siamese  
[www.kuru-doco.com](http://www.kuru-doco.com)

**Broadcaster** SBS

### **SALES**

SBS Content Sales  
[contentsales@sbs.com.au](mailto:contentsales@sbs.com.au)





## ***Living the End***

In Sydney's Sacred Heart Hospice people lie dying. 'Death is not something our culture does well,' says Associate Professor Richard Chye, 'We approach dying as if it is something that doesn't happen very often.' For Mark, Katie and Robert it is about to happen now to them. As they travel towards death, startling truths emerge. In the face of death, they see life. Where they expected to find fear, some will find profound happiness. And all will discover that death is not a light that goes out, but a light that goes on.

**52 mins / Behavioural & Social Science**

**Director** Jen Peedom

**Producers** Jen Peedom, Michael Cordell (executive producer), Nick Murray (executive producer)

**Production Company**  
Cordell Jigsaw Productions  
[www.cordelljigsaw.com](http://www.cordelljigsaw.com)

**Broadcaster** SBS

## **SALES**

SBS Content Sales  
[contentsales@sbs.com.au](mailto:contentsales@sbs.com.au)



## ***Memoirs of a Plague***

The war against locusts is as old as human civilisation. It is one of the universal stories we tell of our creation, lying deep within us. But where does the individual fit into this drama? What role does fate play and what role science? The film follows the director's journey as he examines the complexity of the dramatic encounter between man and locust. Do we live outside or inside nature, and who is hunting who?

**75 mins, 52 mins /  
Environmental Science**

**Director** Robert Nugent

**Producers** Mitzi Goldman,  
Robert Nugent

**Production Company**

Looking Glass Pictures

[www.lookingglasspictures.com.au](http://www.lookingglasspictures.com.au)

### **SALES**

National Geographic  
Television International  
[info@natgeotv-int.com](mailto:info@natgeotv-int.com)



## ***Ned's Head***

Mick Jagger and Heath Ledger have played him. The first ever feature film was about him. Now scientists are on the brink of solving one of the world's most intriguing mysteries surrounding him. Can we finally identify the skull of legendary bushranger, Ned Kelly?

**52 mins / Forensic Science**

**Director** Rebecca Ciallella

**Producers** Ed Punchard,  
Julia Redwood

**Production Company**  
Prospero Productions  
[www.prospero.com.au](http://www.prospero.com.au)

**Broadcaster** SBS

## **SALES**

Electric Sky  
[stella.briley@electric.sky.com](mailto:stella.briley@electric.sky.com)



## ***On a Wing and a Prayer***

Follows the incredible life cycle of the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo through an engaging story of one small bird family as they fight for survival and the one man who will do whatever it takes to protect them.

**52 mins / Science & Nature**

**Directors** Leighton De Barros,  
Sam Smith (co-director)

**Producers** Jodie De Barros,  
Leighton De Barros, Dione  
Gilmour (executive producer)

**Production Company**  
Sea Dog TV International  
[www.wingandaprayer.com.au](http://www.wingandaprayer.com.au)

**Broadcaster** ABC

### **SALES**

ABC Commercial  
[abc.contentsales@abc.net.au](mailto:abc.contentsales@abc.net.au)





## ***Orchids: My Intersex Adventure***

Documentary filmmaker, Phoebe Hart, comes clean on her journey of self discovery to embrace her future and reconcile the past shame and family secrecy surrounding her intersex condition. Despite her mother's outright refusal to be in the film, Phoebe decides she must push on with her quest to resolve her life story and connect with other intersex people on camera. With the help of her sister, Bonnie, and support from her husband, James, she hits the open road and reflects on her youth.

**56 mins, 60 mins / Behavioural & Social Science**

**Director** Phoebe Hart

**Producer** Phoebe Hart

**Production Company**

Hartflicker Moving Pictures

[www.orchids-themovie.com](http://www.orchids-themovie.com)

**Broadcaster** ABC

### **SALES**

First Hand Films

[www.firsthandfilms.com](http://www.firsthandfilms.com)



## ***Recipe for Murder***

Sydney, Australia 1953, a city in the grip of a deadly crime wave. In just over a year more than one hundred people were poisoned. The shocking truth is that most of the killers were women. *Recipe for Murder* follows the detectives cracking the cases, the media fuelling the crime wave and the women standing trial. Based on courtroom transcripts and newspapers of the time, the film combines gritty archive with stunning film noir re-enactments and interviews with witnesses. Narrated in classic pulp crime style, the film dramatically reveals the unique ingredients that created a recipe for murder.

**53 mins / Behavioural  
& Social Science**

**Director** Sonia Bible

**Producers** Susan Lambert,  
Frank Haines (co-producer)

**Production Company**  
Stray Dog Pictures Production,  
Jumping Dog Productions  
[www.jumpingdogproductions.com.au](http://www.jumpingdogproductions.com.au)

**Broadcaster** ABC

### **SALES**

ABC Commercial  
[abc.contentsales@abc.net.au](mailto:abc.contentsales@abc.net.au)



## ***Rocket Compulsion***

This is the story of a tenacious Australian jet pilot, David Mayman, as he strives to achieve his childhood dream of building and free-flying his very own Rocket Belt, only to discover he faces a nearly impossible task. Collaborating with the world's leading Rocket Belt engineers David risks life and limb to become the world's next Rocketman. *Rocket Compulsion* will take the audience on a ride that shows point blank why less people have flown Rocket Belts than have walked on the Moon.

**46 mins / Engineering**

**Director** Gregory Read

**Producers** Ellenor Cox, Marcus Gillezeau (executive producer)

**Production Companies**

Firelight Productions,

Paperbark Films

[www.rocketcompulsion.com](http://www.rocketcompulsion.com)

**Broadcaster** Discovery Network Asia

**SALES**

Off the Fence  
[info@OffTheFence.com](mailto:info@OffTheFence.com)



## ***The Silent Epidemic***

Every month, an estimated 200,000 Australians deliberately hurt themselves. They cut, scratch, burn and sometimes even break bones. It's called self-harm, and it peaks in teenagers and young people. Interweaving personal stories with scientific enquiry, *The Silent Epidemic* casts a unique lens onto what is fast becoming a problem that can no longer remain hidden. The film charts the progress of a group of Melbourne scientists who are hunting for a radical solution to self-harm with a world-first experiment.

**52 mins / Behavioural  
& Social Science**

**Director** Ili Bare

**Producers** Renee Kennedy,  
Mark Hamlyn (executive producer),  
Sue Clothier (executive producer),  
Ron Saunders (executive producer)

**Production Company**  
Beyond Screen Productions  
[www.beyond.com.au](http://www.beyond.com.au)

**Broadcaster** SBS

## **SALES**

SBS Content Sales  
[contentsales@sbs.com.au](mailto:contentsales@sbs.com.au)





## ***Skin Deep***

Scientist Nina Jablonski's global journey to reveal the secrets of human skin colour. Focusing on ground-breaking research and personal accounts of scientists around the world, this documentary reveals that the evolution of skin colour is solely an adaptation to the environment. It drives home a powerful message: judging people on the basis of colour is not only morally unacceptable, it is scientifically wrong.

**52 mins / Behavioural  
& Social Science**

**Director** Franco Di Chiera

**Producers** Andrea Quesnelle, Marco Visalberghi (p/ep), Andrew Ogilvie (p/ep)

**Production Companies**  
Electric Pictures (Australia),  
DocLab (Italy)  
[www.electricpictures.com.au](http://www.electricpictures.com.au)

**Broadcaster** SBS, Arte France,  
UR Sweden, WDR Germany

## **SALES**

ABC Commercial  
[abc.contentsales@abc.net.au](mailto:abc.contentsales@abc.net.au)



***[www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au)***